



National FOIA Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2310A)
Washington, DC 20460
Submitted through foiaonline.Gov

April 23, 2021

RE: FOIA Request Regarding EPA Investigation No. 03R-19-R3 and No. 04R-19-R3

To Whom It May Concern:

Under the Federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552, I request from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to obtain a copy of documents and communications regarding the EPA External Civil Rights Compliance Office (ECRCO) Complaints No. 03R-19-R3 and No. 04R-19-R3. I make this request on behalf of the Rural Agricultural Defenders LLC (RAD), a volunteer, not-for-profit West Virginia organization. Specifically, I am seeking the following information for the time period September 23, 2019 through the present date (April 24, 2021):

All communications and documentation between United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), specifically but not limited to the EPA External Civil Rights Compliance Office (ECRCO), its employees, representatives and associates, and the Jefferson County Commission (JCC), specifically but limited to: Current and former Jefferson County Commissioners; Stephanie Grove, County Commission Administrator; the Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Harvey, Prosecuting Attorney - Civil Division Nathan Cochran.

Communications are understood to include, but not limited to, the following: letters and documents received through postage paid delivery (USPS, USP, FedEx and others), electronic correspondences (emails addressed to official email addresses and personal email address), calendar entries, meeting (both in person and remote) invitations, Facsimiles (Fax), records and notes of telephone or other verbal communications, text messages received on cell phones and chat message.

Documents are understood to include, but not limited to, letters, memos, informal notes, notes from meetings or other verbal communications, reports, surveys, analysis and other documents.

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I request to receive materials responsive to this FOIA request in electronic form, specifically in PDF file format for ease of transfer and negligibility of cost. If there are any fees associated with providing an electronic copy, please inform me of the cost and the basis for that cost. I request in advance, a waiver of any and all fees, as the disclosure of the requested information is in regards to ongoing Federal Investigations triggered by a Title VI Civil Rights Complaint submitted by my organization and will serve to further these investigations. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes, but may be shared with Federal investigators and/or the general public.

If there is a dispute about the disclosure of the document, please identify it on an exemption “privilege” log with specificity to determine if the claim of privilege will be challenged through the legal FOIA process.

The Freedom of Information Act requires that Federal agencies respond to FOIA requests within 20 business days. I request that you provide me with an expected return date via my provided email.

I consent to communicating with the EPA via E-mail in order to streamline the fulfillment of this FOIA request. You may contact me via email at Treasurer@radwv.com.

Thank you for your attention to this important request. We look forward to receiving the requested information as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Giuliana A. Brogna
Treasurer, Rural Agricultural Defenders
Treasurer@radwv.com